(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the districts identified during the current year and funds sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Grant-in-aid of Rs. 4.34 lakhs has been provided to two voluntary organisations for running of Special Schools for Mentally Retarded Children, Hearing Handicapped and for Teachers Training Courses in the District of Korba and Drug under Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme. The National Trust for Welfare of Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has assisted three voluntary organizations in the District of Raipur, Durg and Korba with an amount of Rs. 21.29 lakhs under establishment of Relief Institution Scheme and the Community Based Caregivers Training Scheme. The National Trust has also provided Rs. 1.01 lakhs to the Local Level Committees (LLCs) of the following ten districts-Bastar, Bilaspur, Dantewada, Durg, Jashpur, Korba, Mahasamund, Raigarh, Raipur and Surguja in the current year.

**Jeevan Aadhar Plan for disabled persons**

1118. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the beneficiaries under the Jeevan Aadhar Plan for maintenance of disabled persons since 1996, State-wise; and

(b) the criteria adopted to consider the disability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) As per information furnished by Life Insurance Corporation of India, under the Ministry of Finance, they have sold policies under Jeevan Aadhar Plan as under:

| Financial Year | Number of Policies |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 2000 (approximately) |
| 1997-98 | 990 |

| Financial Year | Number of Policies |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 1301 |
| 1999-2000 | 1265 |
| 2000-01 | 1111 |
| 2001-02 | 1078 |
| 2002-03 | 1965 |
| 2003-04 | 1817 |

No State-wise data is available.

(b) Disabled persons mean those who are suffering from a permanent physical disability (including blindess) of mental retardation, specified in the rules made by the Central Board of Direct Taxes for the purpose of Section 80 DDA of Income Tax Act, 1961, which is to be certified by a physician, a surgeon, an oculist or psychiatrist, as the case may be, working in a Government hospital and which has the effect of reducing considerably such person's capacity for normal work or engaging in a gainful employment or occupation.

**Policy for tribal welfare**

1119. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to come out with a comprehensive policy for tribal welfare; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to create awareness for education amongst the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) As per Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2002 (10 of 2003), there are approximately 697 tribes in India alongwith their synonyms.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, The draft national alongwith the additional national policy brought out by Ministry of Tribal Affairs suggests coordinated and